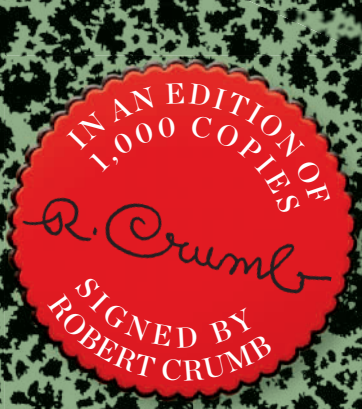
R. CRUMB SKETCHBOOKS

VOLUMES 7-12

1982-2011



R. CRUMB SKETCHBOOKS

VOLUMES 7~12
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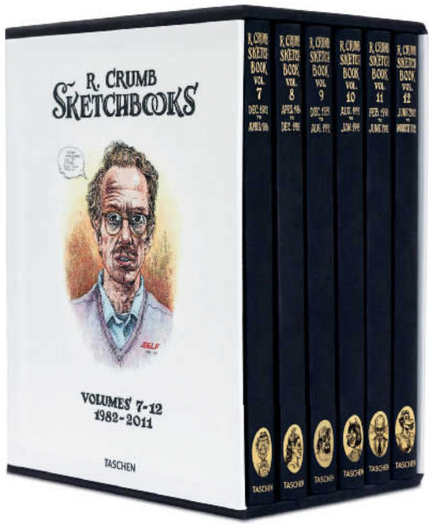
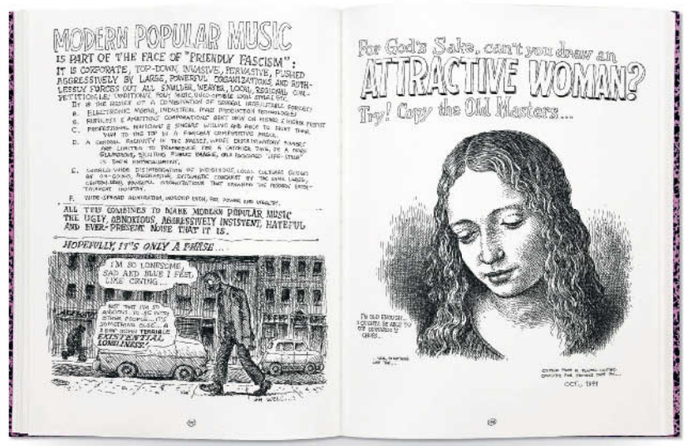
TASCHEN

THE BEST OF R. Crumb

Personally Selected from Original Drawings

"[Crumb is] the Brueghel of the second half of the 20th century."
— Robert Hughes, essayist and art critic





Robert Crumb has been called a genius, an insightful social commentator, a wicked humorist, and just plain wicked. His insistence on spilling his eccentric personal fantasies onto the page has won him adoring fans and vicious critics, though few deny that his talent equals the art stars' of the 20th Century. One of three artistically inclined brothers, Robert escaped the family curse of mental illness through decades of self-prescribed art therapy. From 1964 until 2011 his obsessive daily drawing filled hundreds of sketchbooks. Now aged 67, Crumb has found a measure of peace, a cautious optimism, with his wife Aline, daughter Sophie, and two grandchildren in a small French village. Accordingly, his artistic output has slowed, while the value of anything he puts his hand to increases. He no longer needs to fill sketchbooks, which makes this six-book boxed set such a treasure.

This is the first collection of Robert Crumb sketches to be printed from the original art since the hardbound, slip cased, seven volume series issued by the German publisher Zweitausendeins between 1981 and 1997. Unlike the Zweitausendeins edition, which included every doodle Crumb ever made, our new edition has been personally edited by the notoriously picky artist to include only what he considers his finest work. Most important, **this set included 600 late period drawings never published in any previous sketchbook collection.** Robert Crumb requested TASCHEN publish the books representing the second half of his career first specifically to showcase these new sketches. Knowing the demand for new Crumb material we could hardly refuse, and agreed not to release the six-volume boxed set representing work created between 1964 and 1981 until next year.

Limited to 1000 copies, this boxed set includes an art print titled *The Little Guy That Lives Inside my Brain* (1986), hand-colored, numbered, and signed by the artist, while the first of the six volumes bears an embossed studio stamp. Signed, original, never before published: these words describe an instant collectible sure to increase in value.

THE EDITOR:
Dian Hanson was born in Seattle in 1951. For 25 years she produced various men's magazines, including *Puritan, Juggs* and *Leg Show*, before becoming TASCHEN's sexy book editor in 2001. Her many books for TASCHEN include V*anessa del Rio: Fifty Years of Slightly Slutty Behavior, Tom of Finland XXL,* and *The Big Butt Book*. She lives in Los Angeles.

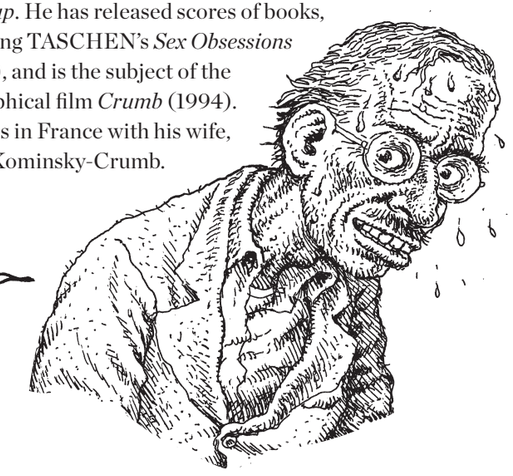
THE ARTIST:
Robert Crumb was born in Philadelphia in 1943 and encouraged by his older brother Charles to draw comics in childhood. He credits his mid-'60s LSD use with turning him to the underground style that made his fame, best illustrated in the comics *Zap, Snatch, Big Ass, Weirdo,* and *Hup*. He has released scores of books, including TASCHEN's *Sex Obsessions* (2007), and is the subject of the biographical film *Crumb* (1994). He lives in France with his wife, Aline Kominsky-Crumb.

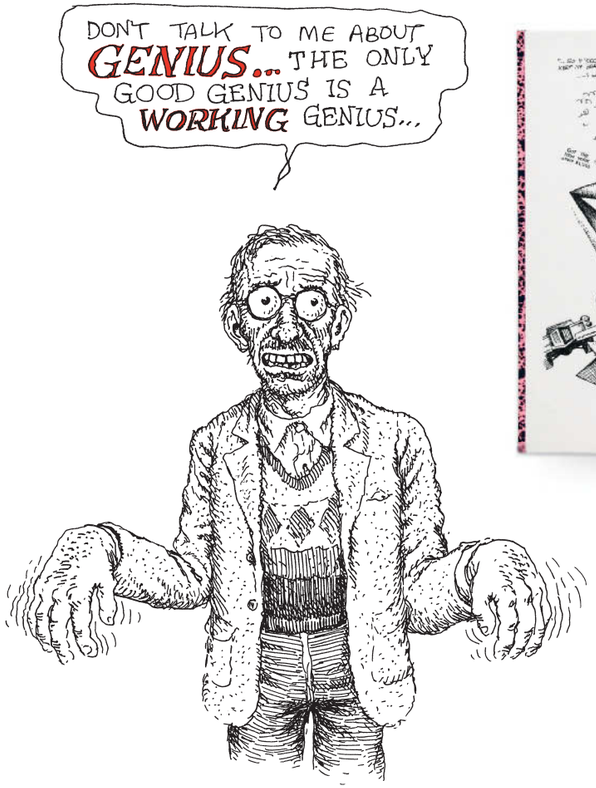
This teaser is produced at the actual size and using the same paper stock as the book!

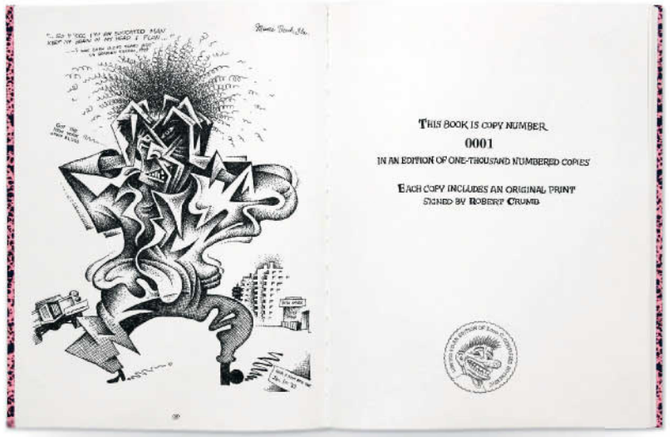
Robert Crumb, The Sketchbooks, 1982–2011. 6 Vols.
Hardcover, 6 vol. in a slipcase, incl. signed print
20.5 x 27 cm (8.1 x 10.6 in.)
1344 pages

List prices:
EUR 750 | USD 1000 | GBP 650
ISBN 978-3-8365-2479-7

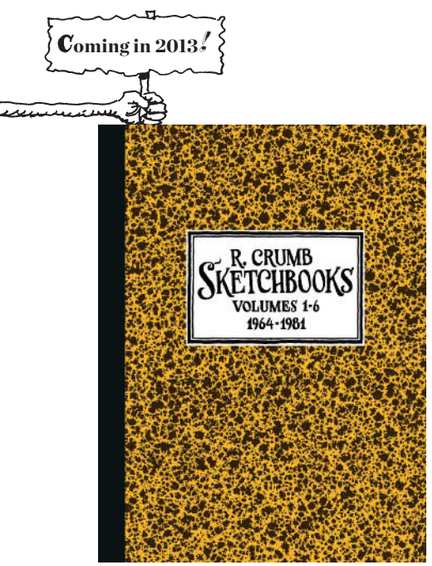
"The Brueghel of the second half of this month, more like."
— Robert Crumb



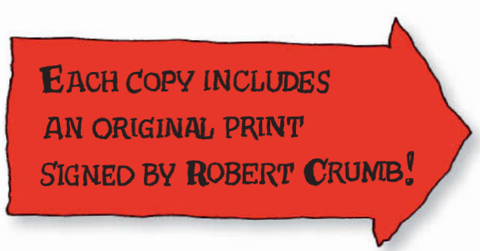


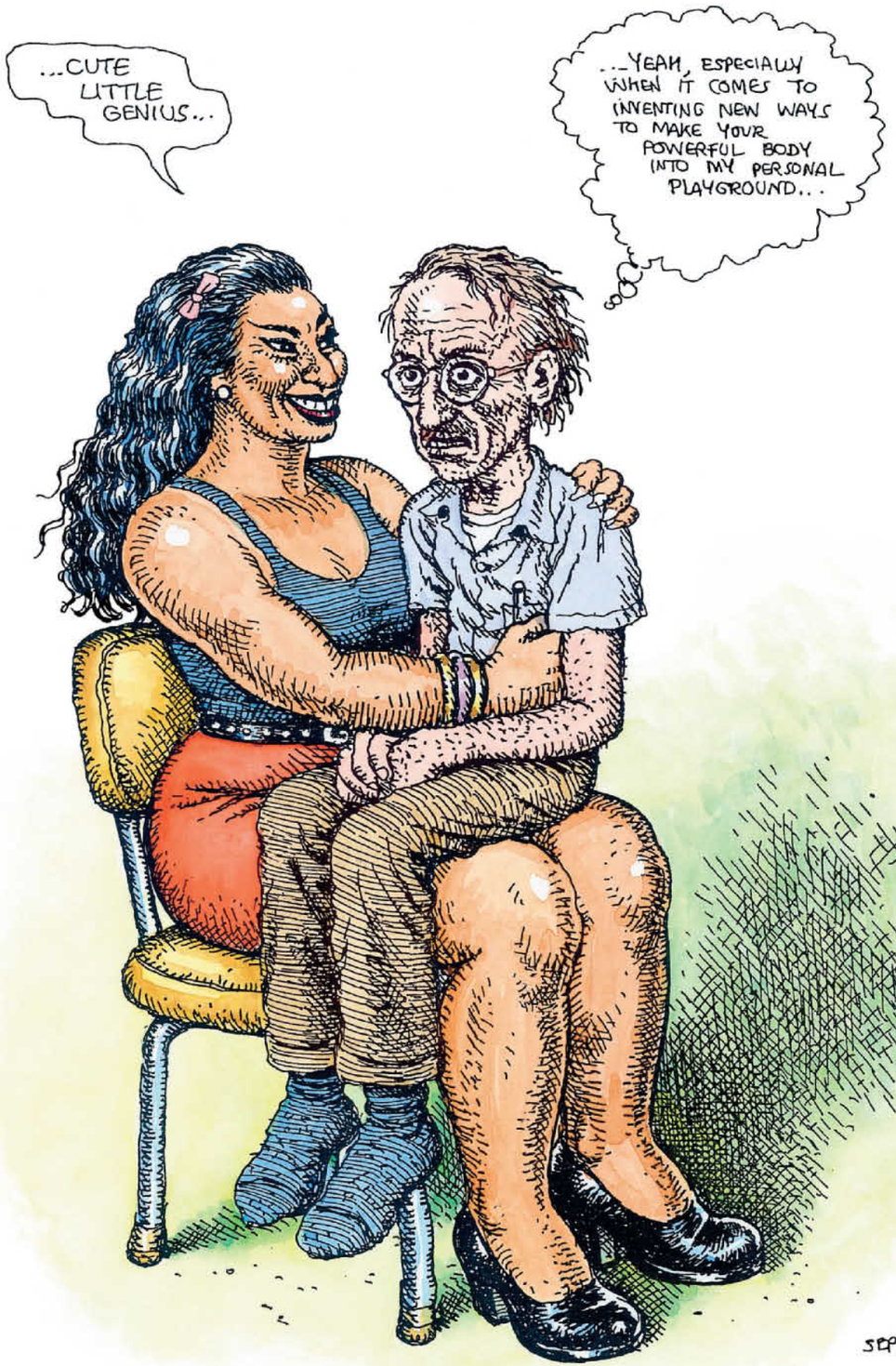


- **Edition of 1000 copies, stamped and numbered**
- Six 224-page volumes, for a total of 1344 pages
- A hand-written introduction, title and stamped number page
- Each volume is designed to mimic a school composition book, the artist's first sketchbook format, quarter bound and debossed, with a tipped in title card
- Box is adorned on three sides with drawings hand-colored by Crumb exclusively for this edition
- **Includes an art print titled *The Little Guy That Lives Inside my Brain* (1986), hand-colored, numbered and signed by Robert Crumb**



Robert Crumb, The Sketchbooks 1964 – 1981
1344 more pages, 300 pages of original color, hand-tinted, signed print





INTRODUCTION
TO VOLUMES 7 THROUGH 12
DEC. 1982 – MARCH 2011

VOLUMES 7 THRU 12 OF THIS SERIES OF SKETCHBOOKS COVER A PERIOD OF ALMOST *THIRTY YEARS* OF MY ILLUSTRIOUS CAREER AS AN ILLUSTRATOR/CARTOONIST, OR *ARTIST*, IF YOU WILL. ONE MIGHT EVEN SAY, THE *LAST* HALF, AS I REALLY HAVE STOPPED DRAWING IN SKETCHBOOKS ON A REGULAR BASIS. YOU MAY OBSERVE, TOWARD THE END OF THIS SERIES, IN THE LAST COUPLE OF VOLUMES, THERE STARTS TO BE FEWER AND FEWER DRAWINGS PER YEAR. THE COMPULSION TO DRAW IN SKETCHBOOKS HAS GRADUALLY TAPERED OFF OVER THE YEARS UNTIL NOW I RARELY DO IT ANYMORE. I WON'T BORE YOU BY TRYING TO EXPLAIN WHY THAT IS. I'M NOT SURE I KNOW WHY. THE MOTIVATION HAS VERY SLOWLY DWINDLED AWAY. YOU MAY THINK, "GEE, THAT'S SO SAD! SUCH A TALENTED ARTIST! WHAT A SHAME!" BUT DON'T FEEL SAD. I DON'T. I'M 68 YEARS OLD. I'VE DONE *SO MUCH* DRAWING IN MY LIFE! I'VE GOT SO MANY BOOKS OF MY OWN ARTWORK! I'VE LEFT MY BIG OL' MARK ON THE WORLD. I'VE DRAWN *EVERYTHING*, OVER AND OVER AGAIN. FOR DECADES MY IDENTITY WAS COMPLETELY TIED UP WITH DRAWING PICTURES. SLOWLY, ATOM BY ATOM, I HAVE BEEN SEPARATING FROM THIS IDENTITY. IT HAS NOT BEEN A DELIBERATE, CONSCIOUS PROCESS. NO, IN FACT MY EGO *CLUNG* TO THIS ARTIST IDENTITY. I WAS THE GUY WHO DREW ALL THE TIME, ALWAYS DOODLING IN THAT BOOK. THAT WAS R. CRUMB. WHAT'S BEEN HAPPENING TO ME IS THAT FATE, THE GODS, THE FORCE, HAS BEEN SLOWLY, GENTLY PULLING ME AWAY, *DISENTANGLING* ME FROM THIS IDENTITY. RELUCTANTLY HAVE I LET IT GO. I WAS SCARED OF BEING WITHOUT IT. IN MY YOUTH IT WAS ALL I KNEW. IT WAS HOW I COPED WITH THE WORLD, IT WAS MY VERY SURVIVAL. I HAD *NOTHING ELSE*. IT WAS NOT JUST FOR THE AESTHETIC PLEASURE OF IT THAT I DREW, IT WAS MAINLY TO *STAY ALIVE!*

OF COURSE I STILL DRAW TO *EARN A LIVING*, IT'S STILL MY BREAD AND BUTTER, BUT IT IS NO LONGER THE *CORE OF MY IDENTITY*. I NO LONGER LIVE MY LIFE *ON PAPER*. IN A SENSE, I SIMPLY, SLOWLY *OUT-GREW* IT. THAT'S NOT TO SAY THAT I DON'T STILL *ENJOY* DRAWING WHEN I DO IT. PERHAPS IT'S JUST THAT MY EGO IS NO LONGER SO COMPLETELY IMMERSED IN IT. I HAVE OTHER FISH TO FRY. MY EGO HAS *DIVERSIFIED*. IT'S BEEN INTERESTING. IT HAS NOTHING TO DO WITH PUBLIC RECOGNITION OR LEAVING ONE'S MARK. I DID THAT, AND IT IS THAT WHICH IS OF INTEREST HERE. ANYTHING ELSE IS MY OWN PRIVATE CONCERN. TO START TALKING ABOUT IT NOW WOULD BE JUST A BUNCH OF BLATHER THAT YOU CAN HEAR IN ANY CORNER BAR.

MUCH OF THE MATERIAL IN THESE BOOKS HAS BEEN PRINTED BEFORE. THE GERMAN PUBLISHER ZWEITAUSENDEINS (2001) DID A VERY FINE SERIES OF SEVEN BOOKS OF SKETCHBOOK MATERIAL YEARS AGO, BUT THIS SERIES ENDED AT THE YEAR 1996. MOST OF THE DRAWINGS FROM 1996 TO 2011 HAVE NOT BEEN PUBLISHED BEFORE THIS SERIES BY TASCHEN. THE AMERICAN COMICS PUBLISHER, FANTAGRAPHICS, HAS ALSO PUT OUT A SKETCHBOOK SERIES OF TEN BOOKS, WHICH ONLY GOES UP THROUGH THE LATE 1970S. IN THIS TASCHEN SERIES YOU GET THE WHOLE GAMUT; MID-1960S TO 2011, THE YEAR OF THIS WRITING. IT'S SELF-EVIDENT FROM THE SIGHT AND HEFT OF THESE TWELVE VOLUMES THAT I'VE DONE MY SHARE OF DRAWING IN THIS LIFE.

~R. CRUMB, AUGUST, 2011

START IN...

THE DOWNSIDE OF THE FEMALE (SORRY, LADIES..)

AUGUST 8TH, '01

A FRESH START. - OCT. 14TH '97

DRAW, YOU BASTARD!

NO, I DON'T WAN'T TO!

I DON'T LIKE DRAWING ANYMORE.. I'M OVER THE HILL.... I'M ALL OUT OF IDEAS... DRAINED... EMPTY...

SEE? LOOK HOW BAD MY DRAWING'S GOTTEN!

YOU'D BETTER GET BUZY... DRAWING IS ALL YOU KNOW... YOU CAN'T DO ANYTHING ELSE!

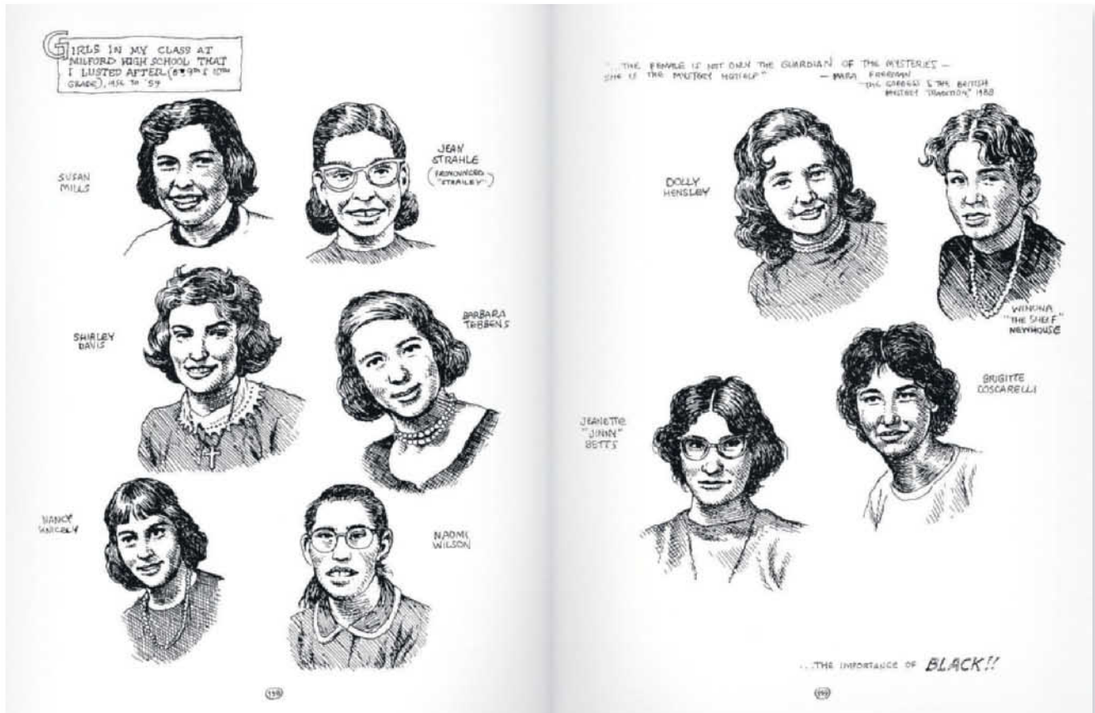
BESIDES, LOOK AT MY LIFE! I DONT HAVE TIME TO DRAW ANYMORE! I HAVE TOO MUCH BUSINESS TO TAKE CARE OF... LEAVE ME ALONE!!

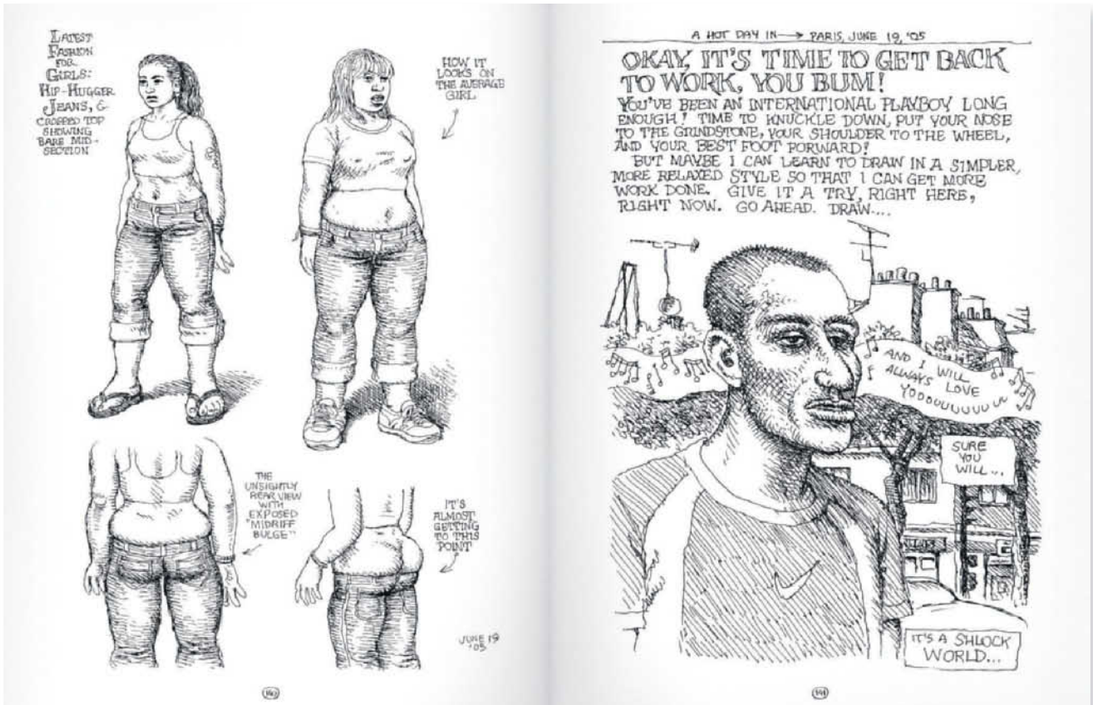
NO, I WONT LEAVE YOU ALONE! DONT TELL ME TO LOOK AT YOUR LIFE! YOU LOOK AT YOUR LIFE!!

FUCK YOU

NO FUCK YOU!

EEROTIC LEG & FOOT LOOKS OF PARIS THIS WINTER
TIGHT JEANS WITH LITTLE CUFFS AT THE ANKLE & ELABORATELY DECORATED WESTERN STYLE BOOTS
SAME KIND OF TIGHT JEANS BUT WITH BAGGY-BOTTOMED HOSE AND MINI-TIPPER BLACK SHOES
TIGHT SKIRT SLIT UP THE BACK WITH UNBUTTONED ROW OF BUTTONS, DARK HOSE AND BLACK HIGH HEEL SHOES
ELABORATELY DECORATED WESTERN BOOTS WORN OVER WHITE PANTS
MORE BIG LEGS
SHORT SKIRT (USUALLY BLACK) & LOW BOOTS WITH DARK-BROWN HOSE REVEALING MAGNIFICENT SHAGGY CALVES
SHORT BLACK LEATHER SKIRT WITH GLEAMING HIGHLIGHTS ON EACH BUTTON, DARK HOSE, BLACK HIGH HEEL SHOES
TIGHT BLACK LEATHER PANTS OVER BLACK BOOTS
TIGHT JEANS OVER BLACK BOOTS


GIRLS IN MY CLASS AT MILFORD HIGH SCHOOL THAT I LUSTED AFTER. (8th & 10th GRADE), 1956 TO '59
SUSAN MILLS
JEAN STRAHLE (PRONOUNCED "STRALEY")
SHIRLEY DAVIS
BARBARA TIBBENS
NANCY NICOLAY
NAOMI WILSON
"...THE FEMALE IS NOT OWN THE GUARDIAN OF THE MISTERIES — SHE IS THE MISTRESS HERSELF" — MARA FERGUSON "THE GREEKS & THE BRITISH MISTRESS TRADITION" 1988
DOLLY HENSLEY
WINONA "THE SHELF" MEYHOUSE
BRIGITTE COSCARELLI
JEANETTE "JINNY" BETTS
...THE IMPORTANCE OF BLACK!!

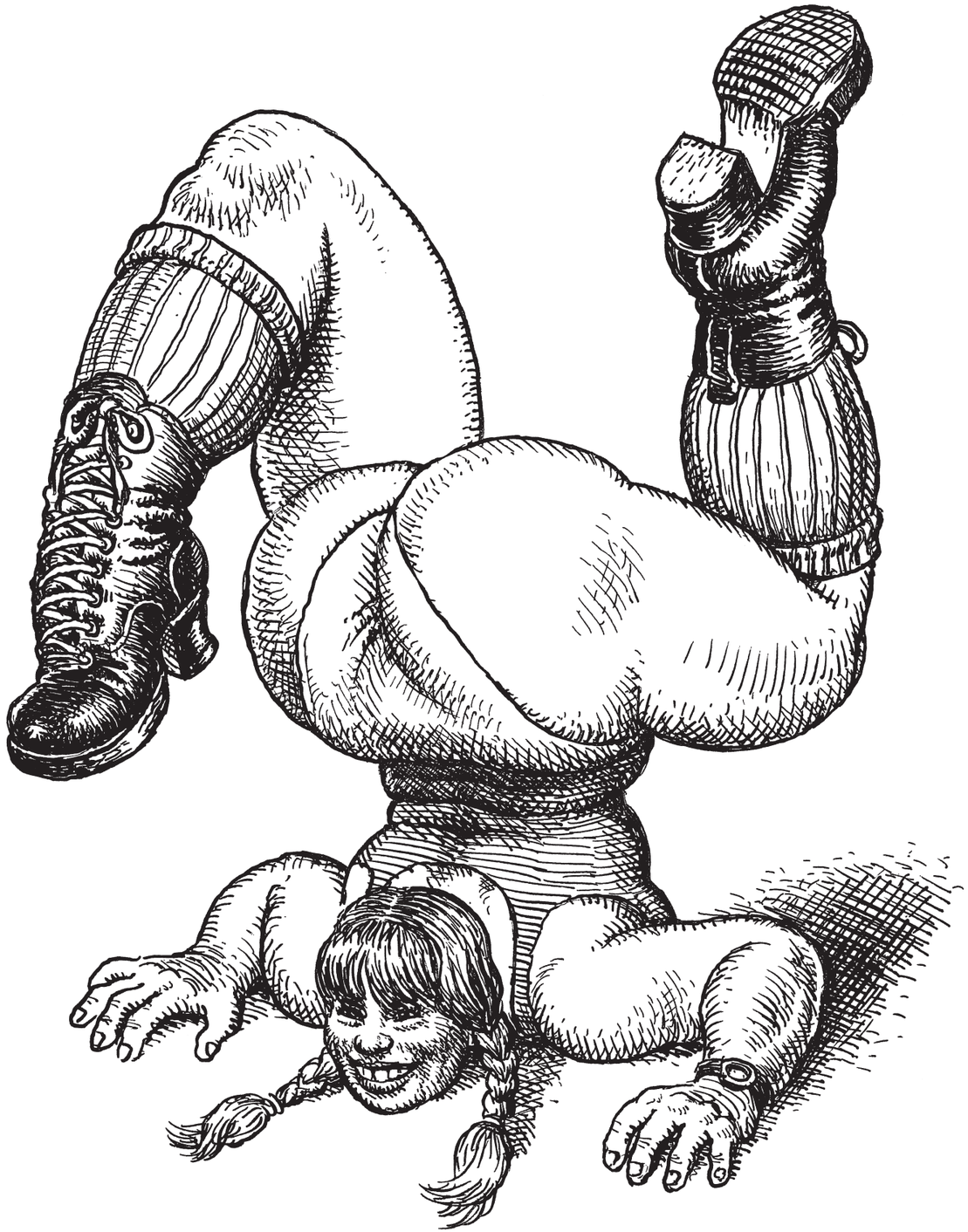

LATEST FASHION FOR GIRLS: RIP-HUGGER JEANS, & CROPPED TOP SHOWING BARE MID-SECTION
HOW IT LOOKS ON THE AVERAGE GIRL
THE UNSIGHTLY REAR VIEW WITH EXPOSED "MIDRIFF BULGE"
IT'S ALMOST GETTING TO THIS POINT
JUNE 19 '05
A HOT DAY IN → PARIS, JUNE 19, '05
OKAY, IT'S TIME TO GET BACK TO WORK, YOU BUM!
YOU'VE BEEN AN INTERNATIONAL PLAYBOY LONG ENOUGH! TIME TO KNUCKLE DOWN, PUT YOUR NOSE TO THE GRINDSTONE, YOUR SHOULDER TO THE WHEEL, AND YOUR BEST FOOT FORWARD!
BUT MAYBE I CAN LEARN TO DRAW IN A SIMPLER, MORE RELAXED STYLE SO THAT I CAN GET MORE WORK DONE. GIVE IT A TRY, RIGHT HERE, RIGHT NOW. GO AHEAD. DRAW...
AND I WILL ALWAYS LOVE YOOOOUUUUUU
SURE YOU WILL...
IT'S A SHLOCK WORLD...

SHELF
JAN. '89 $2.95
REAR-END ROMPS: EXCITING FUN IDEAS FOR YOU & YOUR MATE TO UTILIZE YOUR BOUNTIOUS BOTTOM!
NEW EXERCISES TO KEEP IT HIGH, ROUND & HARD!
SHELF-POSSESSED! A HUSBAND WHO LOVED THE SHELF TOO MUCH!
DAZZLING FOTOS OF 5 NEW SHELF DISCOVERIES!
STEATOPYGIA: A GENETIC BLESSING, BUT NOT IN DISGUISE! by Anthropologist Dr. Cecilia Fremlesacin
STOP TRYING TO HIDE IT!! LEARNING TO LIVE WITH YOUR SHELF
"YEAH... TOMORROW I HAVE TO LIGHTEN UP ON WEIGHT..."
"U NEED IT!"
WHY DO THEY ALL WEAR BIG BULKY JACKETS?
JEROME BYRNE A VERTIER
FRIVOLOUS WOMAN SITTING ALONE IN COFFEE SHOP
A NEW SHELF MOVIE
CHANCE CAUGHT

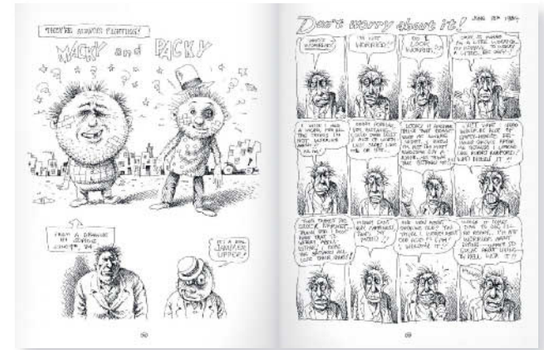
"SI TOUT LES COCUS
AVAIENT DES CLOCHETTES
DES CLOCHETTES AU-D'SSUS
AU-DESSUS DE LA TETE
ÇA FRAIT TANT D'CHAHUT
QUON N'S' ENTENDRAIT PLUS."

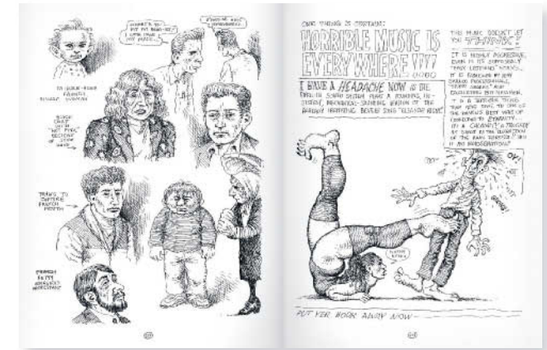
"SI TOUS LES COCUS"
par l'Orchestre de Bal Musette J.B. Ropp
Accordeoniste : Castio Arenas

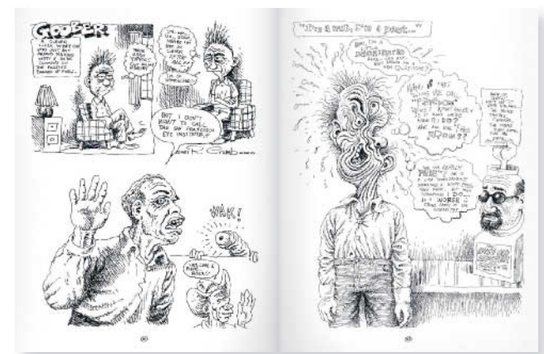
COPIED FROM
WOOD —
"BLOBS" - MAD #1
1952

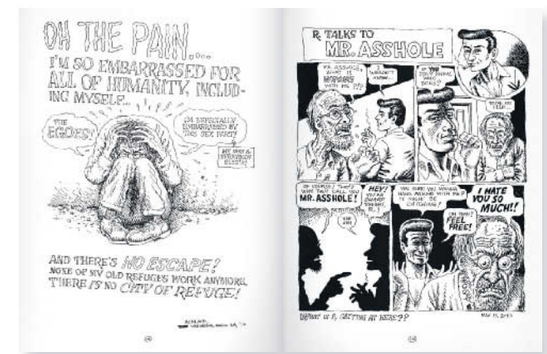


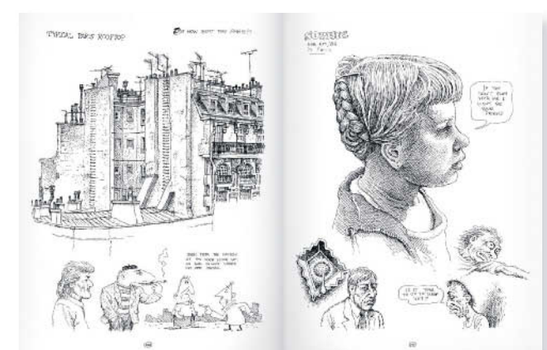
EAGER TO SHOW OFF
WHAT SHE CAN DO...

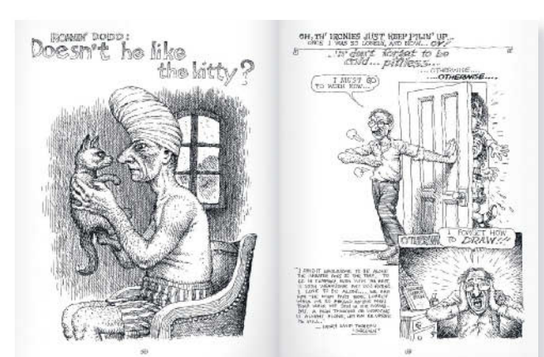


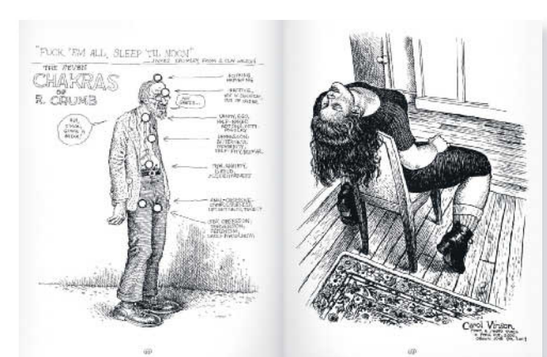












OH TH' PAIN...
SELF....
JULY '94

COMING IN 2013!
R. CRUMB
SKETCHBOOKS
VOLUMES 1-6
1344 more pages, 300 pages of original color